

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-14
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1791
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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TAGS: PARM, UNGA
SUBJECT: UNSSOD: UK GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT MADE
BY PM CALLAGHAN, JUNE 2, 1978

REF: USUN 2198

1. SUMMARY: UK PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN ADDRESSED THE
SSOD IN GENERAL DEBATE, JUNE 2. CALLAGHAN'S STATEMENT
WAS WELL BALANCED AND WELL RECEIVED BY DELEGATIONS. THE
MOST NOTABLE ASPECTS OF THE UK STATEMENT DEALT WITH:
1) SECURITY ASSURANCES, ABOUT WHICH THE UK DECLARED ITS
READINESS "TO TAKE PART WITH OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS
IN FIRM, FAR-REACHING AND PERMANENT ASSURANCES, TO
THE NON-NUCLEAR STATES"; 2) FORCE REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE,
IN WHICH CONNECTION CALLAGHAN ANNOUNCED THAT THE NATO
HEADS OF GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS
OF BOTH NATO AND WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES SHOULD MEET TO
GIVE SOME POLITICAL IMPETUS TO THE MBFR TALKS,
AND 3) VERIFICATION AND INSPECTION TO ENSURE THE EFFECT-
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IVENESS OF ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS, WHICH CALLAGHAN
REFERRED TO AS "ANOTHER FORM OF CONFIDENCE-BUILDING",
PLEDGING UK ACCEPTANCE OF WHATEVER VERIFICATION MEASURES,
INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION ON THE TERRITORY OF
THE UK, NEEDED TO SECURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FUTURE
ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS. SALIENT POINTS OF UK STATEMENT
FOLLOW BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL: THE OVERALL TONE OF CALLAGHAN'S ADDRESS WAS POSITIVE AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING REAL DISARMAMENT. CRITICISM LEVELLED AGAINST THE EAST, FOR UPSETTING THE "MILITARY BALANCE OF STRENGTH BETWEEN EAST AND WEST; AND AGAINST THE DEVELOPING WORLD, FOR INVESTING MORE IN DEFENSE THAN IN EDUCATION AND HEALTH COMBINED, WAS EXCEEDINGLY MILD. THE SPEECH WAS UNIVERSALLY WELL-RECEIVED AND DREW PROLONGED APPLAUSE.

3. COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB): CALLAGHAN ANNOUNCED, BUT DID NOT ELABORATE, THAT THE UK WAS READY TO INTRODUCE NEW PRACTICAL PROPOSALS IN THE TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH THEY HOPED WOULD PROVE ACCEPTABLE AND RESOLVE SOME OF THE REMAINING DIFFICULT ISSUES SO THAT EARLY AGREEMENT COULD BE ACHIEVED ON A DRAFT CTBT.

4. SALT AND ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS (ERW): CALLAGHAN CALLED FOR EARLY AGREEMENT ON SALT II AND DECLARED "BRITAIN'S FULL SUPPORT" FOR THE EMERGING AGREEMENT, EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT "IN DUE COURSE" IT WOULD RECEIVE THE "POLITICAL ENDORSEMENT" OF BOTH PARTIES. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT ON "NUCLEAR WEAPONS THEMSELVES, SALT CANNOT BE THE WHOLE STORY." ALLUDING TO THE DEBATES OVER ERW, CALLAGHAN REMINDED THE ASSEMBLY OF THE MANY WEAPONS

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AND SYSTEMS IN THE SOVIET UNION TARGETED AGAINST "EUROPE AS WELL AS THE MIDDLE EAST, INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN AND ELSEWHERE", BUT HE ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT THE USSR AND ITS ALLIES WOULD HAVE SIMILAR CONCERNS REGARDING THE WEST.

5. NEGATIVE SECURITY ASSURANCES: CALLAGHAN STATED THAT THE UK HAD A LONG-ESTABLISHED POLICY THAT "NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD NEVER BE USED EXCEPT IN SELF-DEFENSE UNDER THE MOST EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES. GOING FURTHER, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE RIGHTS OF STATES, WHICH HAVE RENOUNCED NUCLEAR WEAPONS, TO "MORE SPECIFIC ASSURANCE" THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST THEM AND STATED THAT THE UK WAS PREPARED "TO TAKE PART WITH OTHER FAR-REACHING AND PERMANENT ASSURANCES, TO THE NON-NUCLEAR STATES."

6. NON-PROLIFERATION: CALLAGHAN URGED ADHERENCE TO THE NPT FOR ACCEPTANCE OF IAEA FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS ON THE NUCLEAR FACILITIES OF STATES THAT HAVE "REASONS OF THEIR OWN" FOR PREFERRING NOT TO BECOME PARTIES TO THE NPT.

7. FORCE REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE: CALLAGHAN SAID THAT THE UK AND ITS ALLIES HAD RECENTLY PUT FORWARD "IMPORTANT NEW PROPOSALS" IN THE VIENNA MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WERE DESIGNED TO MEET CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY THE WARSAW PACT STATES. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT ELABORATE THESE PROPOSALS AND STATED THAT THEY WERE AWAITING THE WARSAW PACT STATES' RESPONSE. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE NATO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY AGREED TO PROPOSE A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS FROM BOTH NATO AND WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES TO INJECT "SOME POLITICAL IMPETUS" IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AND ADDED THAT THE USSR WOULD BE APPROACHED IN THIS REGARD "IN

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DUE COURSE".

8. VERIFICATION AND INSPECTION: CALLAGHAN ANNOUNCED UK WILLINGNESS, AS PART OF A CTB AGREEMENT", TO PLAY A FULL PART IN AN INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC MONITORING SYSTEM; IN CONJUNCTION WITH A CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION, TO ACCEPT INSPECTION OF RELEVANT CHEMICAL PRODUCTION PLANTS; AND PLEDGED UK ACCEPTANCE OF "WHATEVER VERIFICATION MEASURES, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION", ON THE TERRITORY OF THE UK, NEEDED TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FUTURE ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS.

9. CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW): CALLAGHAN STATED THAT THE UK HAD NO OFFENSIVE CW CAPABILITY AND EXPRESSED THE WISH

THAT THE US-USSR JOINT INITIATIVE ON CW BE SUBMITTED SOON
TO THE CCD FOR MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATION.

10. CONVENTIONAL ARMS: CALLAGHAN SUGGESTED APPROACHING
OF THE PROBLEM ON A REGIONAL BASIS AND PROPOSED THAT
THE SSOD LAUNCH A UN STUDY ON WAYS TO LIMIT THE GROWTH
OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD PLEDGING
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BRITAINS FULL COOPERATION IN SUCH WORK.

11. DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: CALLAGHAN ANNOUNCED
THAT THE UK WOULD INCREASE ITS AID PROGRAM 6 PERCENT
ANNUM OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS AND SUPPORTED NOR-
DIC PROPOSAL FOR A UN STUDY ON THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT. HE EXPRESSED PAR-
TICULAR INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM OF CONVERTING ARMS PRO-
DUCTION FACILITIES TO CIVIL PURPOSES.

12. MILITARY BUDGETS: CALLAGHAN CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEM OF MEASUREING AND REPORTING
DEvised UNDER UNSYG AUSPICES, AFTER AN INITIAL TEST
OF THE SYSTEM HAD BEEN CONDUCTED. HE PLEDGED UK
WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A TEST BY PRO-
VIDING A FULL BREAKDOWN OF ITS DEFENSE BUDGET AND EX-
PRESSED THE HOPE THAT STATES CURRENTLY PUBLISHING IN-
COMPLETE DEFENSE BUDGET FIGURES WOULD CEASE DOING SO.

13. UNPEACEKEEPING: CALLAGHAN SUPPORTED VP MONDALE'S
"IMAGINATIVE" PROPOSAL IN THIS AREA AND PROPOSED THAT
THE UN CONDUCT A STUDY ON SECURITY MATTERS AND
PEACEKEEPING. (TEXT OF UK PROPOSAL CONTAINED REFTEL).

14. MACHINERY: CALLAGHAN SUPPORTED CONTINUATION OF THE
CCD BUT STATED THAT THE UK BELIEVED ITS STRUCTURE
COULD BE IMPROVED. SUCH IMPROVEMENTS MIGHT BE: REFORM
OF THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP SYSTEM, A SLIGHT INCREASE IN
MEMBERSHIP, CREATION OF A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE CCD AND UN, AND ARRANGING FOR PARTICIPATION OF NON-
MEMBERS IN THE WORK OF THE CCD. HE ALSO URGED " AN
INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE" FOR THE UN SECRE-
TARIAT IN DISARMAMENT AND PROPOSED THAT THE DISARMAMENT
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CENTER BECOME THE REPOSITORY OF DATA ON DISARMAMENT.

15. ONE NOTEWORTHY OMISSION WAS THE ABSENCE OF ANY
REFERENCE TO NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION A ISSUE ON
WHICH THE UK TOOK A LEADING ROLE AT THE 32ND UNGA BY
SPONSORING A RESOLUTION WHICH THE WESTERN NATIONS
COULD BACK AS A COUNTER TO AN UNSATISFACTORY SOVIET
SUPPORTED RESOLUTION. YOUNG

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